

## Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

(ISO)W

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R 270930Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7913

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 3349

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: DEMIREL VISITS THRACE AMIDST INDICATIONS

OF EARLY ELECTIONS

1. AUGUST 23 PRIMIN DEMIREL MADE SWING THROUGH TURKISH THRACE WHICH HAD MANY OF EARMARKS OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN TRIP. HE TRAVELED WITH LARGE ENTOURAGE, INCLUDING 11 JUSTICE PARTY (JP) MINISTERS, AND ACCORDING TO PRESS, AUTOMOBILE CARAVAN STRETCHED SOME 15 KILOMETERS WHEN IT ENTERED EDIRNE. IN HIS SPEECHES, PRIMIN SOUNDED VERY MUCH LIKE MAN RUNNING FOR OFFICE AS HE LASHED OUT AT OPPOSITION, CATALOGUED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION AND PROMISED LOCAL RESIDENTS MORE AND BETTER PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE. HE ALSO CONTINUED TO TRY OUT NEW LINE THAT DODECANESE ISLANDS SHOULD NOT BE REFERRED TO AS GREEK BUT AS AEGEAN ISLANDS, WHICH FOR ONCE SEEMS TO GO OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT ONE STEP FURTHER ON AEGEAN QUESTION

2. AFTER SPEAKING STOPS IN THREE DIFFERENT PROVINCES

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ENROUTE, DEMIREL ROUNDED OUT THE TRIP IN EDIREN. THERE HE

SPOKE TO A HUGE CROWD IN FRONT OF  
MAGNIFICENT SELIMEYE MOSQUE, AN  
APT CHOICE OF SITE FOR POLITICALLY  
CONSERVATIVE EDIREN, AND WAS ACCORDED  
WARM RECEPTION. IN 1973 ELECTIONS, JP  
WON MORE THAN 50 PERCENT  
OF VOTE IN THIS PROVINCE

3. DEMIREL'S AUGUST 16 MEETING WITH  
BUSINESSMEN IN ISTANBUL REINFORCED IMPRESSION  
THAT HE IS GEARING UP FOR ELECTION  
CAMPAIGN. MANY CONGEN CONTACTS  
IN BUSINESS COMMUNITY VIEWED MEETING AS  
LARGELY POLITICAL GESTURE APPARENTLY PREPARATORY  
TO EARLY ELECTIONS. IMPRESSION THEY RECEIVED  
FROM DEMIREL IS THAT HE HAS GOOD INTENTIONS  
TOWARD BUSINESS INTERESTS BUT HIS HANDS ARE TIED  
IN PRESENT COALITION GOVERNMENT. CLEAR  
MESSAGE CAME THROUGH THAT IF HE CAN SHED  
OR DIMINISH INFLUENCE OF NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP)  
AFTER ELECTIONS, DEMIREL WOULD MAKE GREATER  
EFFORT TO HELP BUSINESS COMMUNITY. AT SAME TIME,  
PRIMIN WAS REPORTEDLY LESS  
THAN FORTHCOMING ON BUSINESSMENS' COMPLAINTS ABOUT  
LABOR PROBLEMS. THIS PERHAPS REFLECTS  
HIS CURRENT COURTSHIP OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM  
TURKEY'S LARGEST LABOR CONFEDERATION TURK-IS

4. RECENT CONTACTS WITH ISTANBUL BANKING  
COMMUNITY ALSO CONFIRM FEELING THAT NATIONAL  
ELECTIONS WILL COME PRIOR TO OBLIGATION  
OCTOBER 1977 DEADLINE (ISTANBUL A 19). BANKERS  
THINK THAT NATIONAL FRONT  
GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE UP ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO  
CAPITALIZE ON FAVORABLE ECONOMIC TRENDS WHICH  
ARE EXPECTED TO BE BEST  
IN FIRST HALF OF 1977 RATHER THAN LATER IN YEAR.

5. IN ADDITION, LOCAL OFFICIALS CONSUL GENERAL  
CALLED ON IN TEKIRDAG, CANAKKALE AND BURSA  
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AUGUST 18-20 WERE FRANK IN STATING  
THAT THEY EXPECTED EARLY ELECTIONS. MAYOR (MEMBER RPP)  
OF CANAKKALE SAID HE  
THOUGHT NATIONAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD  
BEFORE JUNE 1977 LOCAL ELECTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL  
POSITIONS, AND DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
OF BURSA SAID ALL GOVERNORS' OFFICES HAD BEEN  
ALERTED TO POSSIBILITY OF EARLY ELECTIONS. BATJER

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## Message Attributes

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